

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 1 5 1 2

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: ROMANOV'S FUTURE

REF: LENDINGRAD 0618 AND 0804

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AS PRE-25TH CONGRESS PERIOD UNFOLDS WITH PATTERN OF REPORTS-ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN IN LENDINGRAD, THERE IS INCREASING TENDENCY ON PART OF SOME OFFICIALS HERE TO SPECULATE ON ADVANCEMENT PROSPECTS OF G. V. ROMANOV, FIRST SECRETARY OF LENDINGRAD OBLAST' PARTY ORGANIZATION (AND CANDIDATE MEMBER OF POLITBURO). ALTHOUGH THIS SPECULATION IS ALONG LINES REPORTED EARLIER, WE PASS IT ALONG AS INDICATION THAT LENDINGRAD PARTY CIRCLES ARE HOPING FOR THE BEST. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 21 THAT LENDINGRAD CITY AND OBLAST' HAD FULFILLED INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION TASKS SET BY 9TH FIVE YEAR PLAN WITH 36.8 O/O INCREASE IN PRODUCTION VOLUME DURING PLAN PERIOD, MOST OF WHICH ACHIEVED THROUGH 33.5 O/O GROWTH IN LABOR PRODUCTIVITY. THIS IS RATHER EXPECTABLE FANFARE AT THIS POINT IN PLAN PERIOD, BUT ONE USUALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE LENDINGRAD SOURCE DREW OUR ATTENTION TO PLAY THIS RECEIVED IN CENTRAL PRESS AND TELEVISION AND OPINED THAT IT WAS "HIGH RECOGNITION" OF LENDINGRAD PARTY ORGANIZATION'S STRONG EFFORTS AND OF ROMANOV PERSONALLY.

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3. DISCUSSING FORTHCOMING OBLAST PARTY CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY, ONE OFFICIAL (AND PARTY MEMBER) SAID THAT IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY CORRECT FOR ROMANOV TO BE RE-ELECTED AS FIRST SECRETARY OF OBKOM EVEN IF DECISION ALREADY TAKEN TO ADVANCE HIM TO FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP AT CONGRESS AND, AS WELL, GIVE HIM CENTRAL FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. THIS SOURCE, WHO BELIEVES THAT ROMANOV IS CLEARLY SLATED FOR FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP, ADDED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT ROMANOV'S RECORD WOULD ALSO FIND HIM "LEAVING LENINGRAD FOR MOSCOW" IN ORDER TO UTILIZE HIS PROVEN ORGANIZATIONAL TALENTS FOR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SOURCE ALLOWED AS HOW PARTY HERE WOULD CONSIDER FULL POLITBURO MEMBERSHIP FOR ITS FIRST SECRETARY AS A DUE RECOGNITION OF AREA'S IMPORTANCE AND HISTORY. THUS, ALTHOUGH ROMANOV'S PROMOTION WOULD BE A PLUS FOR LENINGRAD PARTY ORGANIZATION IN ANY EVENT, THOSE WHO WOULD PERHAPS BENEFIT FROM SUCH ADVANCEMENT MIGHT ARGUE PRO AND CON ON HIS RETENTION OF FIRST-SECRETARYSHIP AS WELL.

4. SPECULATION AS TO WHO MIGHT REPLACE ROMANOV IF HE INDEED "GOES TO MOSCOW" IS CONFINED SOLELY TO THOSE NOW HOLDING OTHER LENINGRAD PARTY POSITIONS. THEY ARE: YURIY FILIPPOVICH SOLOV'YEV, AGE 50, WHO HAS BEEN THE OBKOM SECOND SECRETARY SINCE JULY 1975; BORIS IVANOVICH ARISTOV, AGE 50, MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND FIRST SECRETARY OF THE LENINGRAD CITY COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU SINCE 1971; AND VASILIIY IVANOVICH KAZAKOV, AGE 48, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, WHO MOVED TO HIS PRESENT POSITION AS CHAIRMAN (MAYOR) OF THE LENINGRAD CITY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN 1973 AFTER PREVIOUSLY SERVING AS THE SECOND SECRETARY OF THE PARTY OBKOM; KAZAKOV RETAINED HIS OBKOM BUREAU MEMBERSHIP WHEN HE BECAME MAYOR. OF THESE THREE, ARISTOV AND KAZAKOV HAVE THE MOST EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING TRIPS ABROAD. IF KAZAKOV'S MOVE FROM THE SECOND SECRETARYSHIP OF THE OBKOM TO CITY HALL WAS NOT A DEMOTION (AND, INDEED, KAZAKOV'S RESPONSIBILITIES AS MAYOR ARE GREAT), HE MIGHT HAVE THE EDGE OVER ARISTOV IF A REPLACEMENT FOR ROMANOV COMES TO PASS. KAZAKOV HAS BEEN ABROAD FREQUENTLY, INCLUDING A VISIT TO THE U.S., IN HIS CAPACITY AS AN OFFICIAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SISTER-CITY FEDERATION AND USUALLY HAS A PROMINENT ROLE IN RECEIVING VISITING DIGNITARIES IN LENINGRAD.

5. OBVIOUSLY IT TAKES MORE THAN WISHFUL THINKING TO GET ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITBURO, ESPECIALLY FOR A MERE YOUNGSTER LIKE ROMANOV, BUT WE OFFER THIS CONJECTURE AS PART OF THE BUDDING SCIENCE OF SMOLNOLOGY. NEUBERT

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